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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/760,253	01/21/2004	Kia Silverbrook	MPA15US	1566
24011 7590 11/14/2007 SILVERBROOK RESEARCH PTY LTD 393 DARLING STREET BALMAIN, 2041 AUSTRALIA			EXAMINER MARTIN, LAURA E	
			ART UNIT 2853	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/14/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

JH

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/760,253

Applicant(s)

SILVERBROOK ET AL.

Examiner

Laura E. Martin

Art Unit

2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/14/07 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silverbrook et al. (6439908) in view of Silverbrook (US 20020180834).

Silverbrook et al. disclose the following claim limitations:

As per claim 1: a printhead assembly (figure 2, element 10) comprising: at least two printhead integrated circuits (figure 2, element 18), each of which has nozzles formed therein (figure 3, element 42) for delivering printing fluid onto a first surface of print media, a nozzle guard partially covering the nozzles [0066] (the capping devices cover the nozzles sometimes, and at other times they do not cover the capping

devices), and a support member (figure 2, element 28) supporting and carrying the printing fluid for the at least two printhead integrated circuits (figure 2, element 18); a casing (figure 2, element 14) in which the at least one printhead module is removably mounted so as to form a print surface from which the printing fluid is delivered onto the print media (figure 8, element 18); a media guide for printing without making direct contact with the printhead integrated circuits (column 3, lines 6-10).

As per claim 2: a print media guide is arranged to substantially prevent the print media from impinging on the nozzles of each of the at least two printhead integrated circuits.

As per claim 3: the print media guide is arranged to provide a gap between the nozzles of each of the at least two printhead integrated circuits and the passing print media.

As per claim 4: a printhead assembly (10) wherein: the at least one printhead module (figure 2, element 12) is formed as a unitary arrangement of the at least two printhead integrated circuits (figure 2, element 18), the support member (figure 2, element 28), at least one fluid distribution member mounting the at least two printhead integrated circuits to the support member (figure 7, element 30), and an electrical connector for connecting electrical signals to the at least two printhead integrated circuit chips; the support member has at least one longitudinally extending channel (figure 8, element 72) for carrying the printing fluid for the printhead integrated circuits and includes a plurality of apertures (figure 8, element 72) extending through a wall of the support member arranged so as to direct the printing fluid from the at least one channel

to associated nozzles in both, or if more than two, all of the printhead integrated circuits by way of respective ones of the fluid distribution members (column 4, lines 41-44).

Silverbrook et al. do not disclose the following claim limitations:

As per claim 1: a print media guide mounted to a slanted portion of the casing, adjacent the print surface, a slanted print media contact surface of the print media guide arranged to contact and guide the first surface of the print media over the print surface for printing onto the first surface.

As per claim 2: a print media guide is arranged to substantially prevent the print media from impinging on the nozzles of each of the at least two printhead integrated circuits.

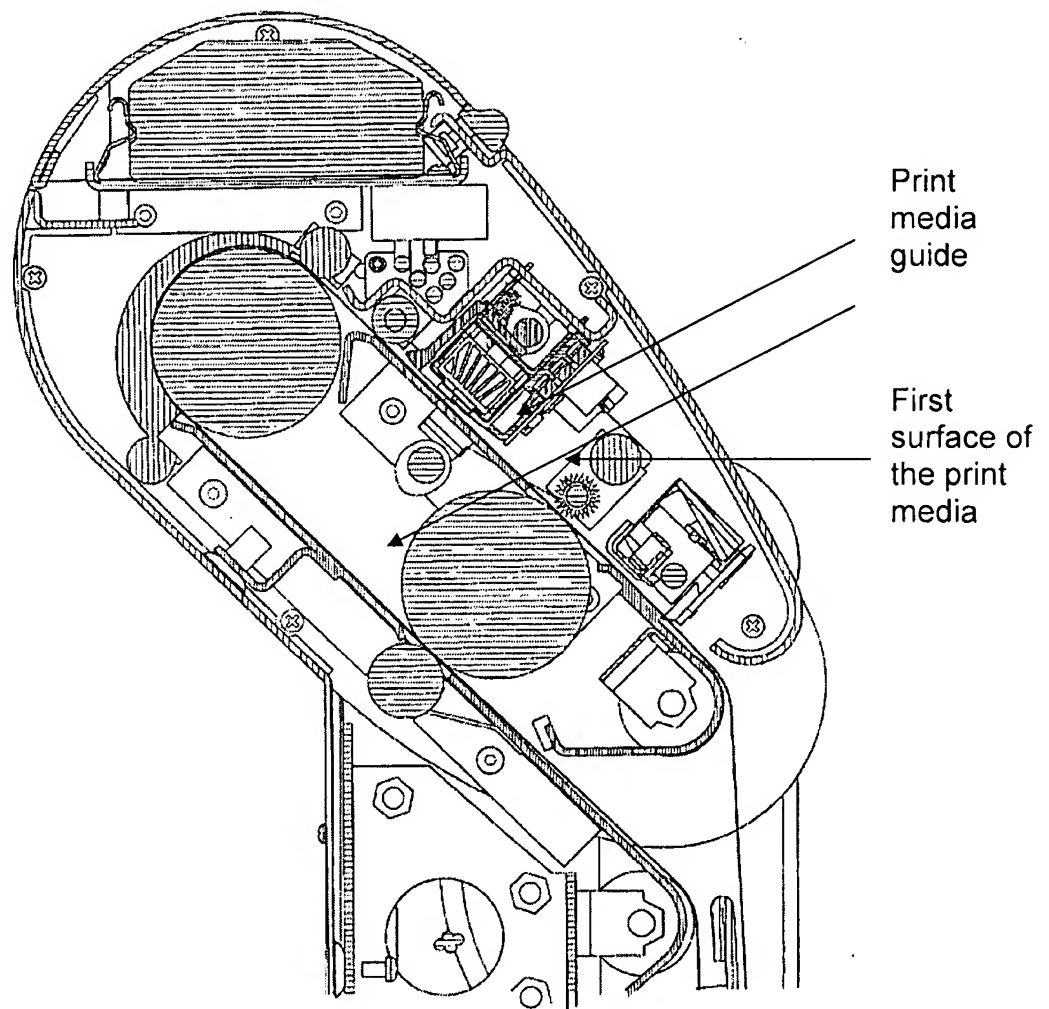
As per claim 3: the print media guide is arranged to provide a gap between the nozzles of each of the at least two printhead integrated circuits and the passing print media.

Silverbrook discloses the following claim limitations:

As per claim 1: a print media guide mounted to a slanted portion of the casing, adjacent the print surface, a slanted print media contact surface of the print media guide arranged to contact and guide the first surface of the print media over the print surface for printing onto the first surface (shown below).

As per claim 2: a print media guide is arranged to substantially prevent the print media from impinging on the nozzles of each of the at least two printhead integrated circuits (see figure below – media guide and rollers put pressure on paper so that it rests against the media guide and not the nozzle area).

As per claim 3: the print media guide is arranged to provide a gap between the nozzles of each of the at least two printhead integrated circuits and the passing print media (see figure below – media guide and rollers put pressure on paper so that it rests against the media guide and not the nozzle area).



It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the disclosure of Silverbrook et al. with that of Silverbrook in order to improve image quality and consistency.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/14/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the integrated circuits do not have a nozzle guard partially covering the nozzles; however, the examiner disagrees as cited above. The examiner also notes in the above action, that the print media does not make contact with the integrated circuits.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura E. Martin whose telephone number is (571) 272-2160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:00 - 3:30.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen D. Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Laura E. Martin


11/7/07
MANISH S. SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER